No. 10.

LANTERN

SUMMER 1975

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introduction

For the first time in its rather chequered history, the money from the sales of the last edition of LANTERN covered the production costs, and it was all due to those that sallied forth and sold copies and to whom many 'Thankyous' are extended.

Regular readers will no doubt notice that once again small changes have taken place in the layout and format of this edition, most of which were suggested by various readers and all of which, it is hoped, will improve the mag in some small way both in content and design. The Editors always welcome suggestions and ideas which will help LANTERN to evolve into, dare we say it, a first class magazine.

Up until now this introduction has, almost invariably, contained a resume of the contents which, upon reflection, seemed to be rather unnecessary. In future this will not be done and the space saved will be used as a sort of 'Notice Board' in which individuals and organisations can air their wants, aims etc. Naturally there will be no charge for this and anyone wishing for a mention should send details to the Editor at the address below. Having said that, here goes.....

Bill Porter of 62 Stonards Hill, Loughton, Essex, is researching into Dragon and Serpent Lore and would be grateful for any information on the subject from any area of the British Isles.....The Essex Dowser is an irregularly produced newsletter available free of charge to members and Friends of the Essex Dowsing Group; subjects dealt with include dowsing, Ley lines and ESP: For further information contact Frank Dineen, 4 Brentwood Road, Ingrave, Brentwood CM13 3HQ ..... The Pagan Movement in Britain and Ireland exists to bring together those people who still feel love for the Earth; their aim being to create a society in which everyone is free to worship the Gods and Godesses of Nature; details from Michael Burgess, 21 Kirkley Gardens, Lowestoft..... (Michael has just produced a small booklet of his own poems entitled 'For the Wind, For the Wild', it is well worth reading and I know that he will be only too pleased to supply copies for 30p inc. P & P; Ed)..... The Ley Hunter is a bi-monthly duplicated magazine dealing with Leys, Power lines, UFOs and other ossociated subjects. No. 64 contains articles on Belgian Leys, Thanet Leys, mythology and more. Subscription is £1.50 per year (inc.P & P) from Paul Screeton, 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool TS25 2AT..... Nigel Pennick, who wrote the article on Suffolk Landscape Geometry in the last issue of Lantern, has recently had published a fascinating book 'The Mysteries of King's College Chapel.' In brief, it covers in some detail the building of the chapel and shows how it was planned and built upon Geomantic and Kabbalistic principles: probably the last building in England to be so built. The book makes very interesting reading and is profusely illustrated; available from: Cokaygne Publishing, New Square, Cambridge, price 95p.....

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Signes from Heaven: OR SEVERALL APPARITIONS

Seene and heard in the Ayre, in the Counties of Cambridge and Norfolke on the 21 day of May last past in the afternoone 1646

During April this year the local TV and press gave wide coverage to the hunt for a meteorite which may have fallen in Breckland 329 years ago. The search is being made by the Norwich Astronomical Society, based on information in a 17th century pamphlet which describes apparitions and signs in the sky (mentioned briefly in Lantern No.7). Mr. Cyril Blount, the Secretary of the NAS is convinced that the pamphlet describes a meteorite shower. His suspicions are also shared by Dr. David Dewhurst of the Cambridge University observatory and Dr. Keith Hindley of the Meteorite Section of the British Astronomical Association. They both suggest that if a fall did take place, it must have been in the Brandon/Newmarket/Thetford area. One possible point of impact that has been suggested is the 'Devil's Punchbowl', a large almost perfectly circular water-filled depression in the forest about four miles north of Thetford.

Although the idea that the pamphlet does describe (albeit in a very colourful manner) what could have been a meteorite shower is very attractive, some aspects of the description just do not seem to fit. These can be dismissed as irrelevant exaggerations on the part of the writer; or it is just possible that they might be describing something that had nothing to do with meteorites. If one accepts parts of the pamphlet as a factual description of a natural phenomena, it must be very difficult to dismiss the parts which do not fit the theory. With this in mind Lantern presents, with the kind permission of Norwich City Library, the full tract of the pamphlet complete with its political and religious overtones to allow readers to draw their own conclusions.

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SIGNES FROM HEAVEN: OR SEVERALL APPARITIONS SEEN AND HEARD IN THE AYRE IN THE COUNTIES OF CAMBRIDGE AND NORFOLKE ON THE 21 DAY OF MAY LAST PAST IN THE AFTERNOONE, 1646.

Viz:

A Navie or Fleet of Ships under sayle.
A ball of wild fire rolling up and downe.
Three men strugling one with another one having a Sword in his hand.
Great Hailstones round and hollow like rings.
Extraordinary beating of Drums in the ayre &c.
A Piller or Cloud ascending up from the earth like a spire Steeple, being opposed by a Speare or Lance downward.

Being made manifest by divers and severall Letters from persons of credit in both counties, and sent up to this city to their friends for Truth.

LONDON,
Printed by T. Forcet, dwelling in ????-ish Street, in Heydon-court, 1646.

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STRANGE
SIGNES FROM HEAVEN,
to warne and awaken the Eastern Association, with the Southerne parts of the Kingdome.

Upon the one and twentieth day of May in the afternoone, in this years 1646, there were very strange sights seen and unwonted sounds heard in the Ayre, in severall places as followeth.

About New-Market in the county of Cambridge, there were seen by divers honest, sober, and civill persons and men of good credit, three men in the Ayre striving, strugling, and tugging together, one of them having a drawn Sword in his hand, from which Judgment God in mercy preserve these three Kingdomes, England, Scotland, and Ireland, from further conflicts and effusion of blood.

Betwixt Newmarket and the town of Thetford in the foresaid County, there was observed a piller or a Cloud to ascend from the earth, with the bright hilts of a Sword towards the bottom of it, which piller did ascend in a pyramidall form, and fashioned it self into the forme of a Spire or broach Steeple, and there descended also out of the skye, the forme of a Pike or Lance, with a very sharp head or point to encounter with it.

Also at a distance, there appeared another Speare or Lance, with a very accute point out of the Skye likewise, which was ready to interpose, but did not engage it self.

The first Speare which came downe from Heaven point blanck, was after a while clean elevated higher, and the Spire or Speare which went up from the earth, ascended after it, to encounter with it. The

the second time.

This continued about an houre and a halfe.

At Stopham in the County of Cambridge aforesiad, a ball of wild fire fell upon the earth, which burnt up and spoyled about an Aker of Graine, and when it had rolled and runne up and down to the terror of many people and some Townesmen that see it, it disolved and left a most sulpherous stinke behind it.

Also at Comberton in the County aforesaid, divers of the Trayned Bands being met at a Muster, did behold the forme of a spire Steeple in the Skye, with divers Swords set round about it.

Also at Brandon in the County of Norfolke the Inhabitants were forced to come out of their houses to behold so strange a spectacle of a spire Steeple ascending up from the earth, and a Pike or Lance descending downward from Heaven. The Lord in mercy blesse and preserve his Church, and settle Peace and truth among all degrees, and more especially among our Church-men.

In Brandon in the County aforesaid, was seen at the same time a Navie or Fleet of Ships in the ayre, swiftly passing under Sayle, with Flags and streamers hanged out, as if they were ready to give an encounter.

In Marshland in the County of Norfolke aforesaid, within three miles of Kings Linne, a Captain and Lieutenant with divers other persons of credit, did heare in the time of Thunder, a sound as of a whole Regiment of Drums beating a call with perfect notes and stops, much admired at of all that heard it.

And the like Military sound was heard in Suffolk upon the same day, and in other parts of the Eastern Association.

In all these places there was very great Thunder, with Raine and Haile-stones of extraordinary bignesse and round, and some hollow within like rings.

The Lord grant that all the people of this Kingdome may take heed to every warning Trumpet of his, that we may speedily awaken from our sins, and truly turne to the Lord, fight his battels against our spirituall Enemies, and get those inward riches of which we cannot be plundered of, and so to seek an inward Kingdome of Righteousnesse and Peace, that we may be more capable in his good time of a setled Peace, and state in the outward Kingdome, and all through our Lord Jesus Christ.

FINIS.

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B.S.I.G. does not dismiss out of hand the meteorite theory, in fact the idea is very attractive and fits quite well. However, some parts of the pamphlet just do not seem to fit, and until they can be explained satisfactorily the nature of the phenomena described in the pamphlet must be left open.

The editors of Lantern would be very pleased to receive readers letters and comments on this article.

LOCAL CURIOSITIES

At a crossroads on the Bury St Edmunds/Kentford road is a flower-decked grave. It is known as 'The Boy's Grave' and is the burial place of a shepherd boy who hanged himself after being accused of sheep stealing many years ago. Sometimes a strange force is said to enmante from the grave and several cyclists have said that they have been forced to dismount because of it.

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The earliest reference to the magical arts to be traced in this area dates back to Norfolk in 1209. A manuscript in the Public Records office, London, records that in that year a Norfolk woman, Agnes, wife of Odo, accused one Galiena of sorcery. The accused was however found to be innocent after the 'ordeal of iron.'

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The appearance of a dragon at Henham, Essex, is recorded in a pamphlet entitled 'The Flying Serpent or Strange News out of Essex' (1669). It told of a winged dragon 9 feet long that had been seen basking in the sun in a field. Its eyes were described as 'the bigness of a sheep's eye' and it boasted two rows of sharp white teeth. The dragon never did any damage and soon disappeared from the area.

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norfolk's phantom coaches

BY
IVAN BUNN

Our first port of call is WEYBOURNE on the North Norfolk coast. Here a phantom coach pulled by four horses and driven by a headless groom is said to gallop through the village to finally disappear through the churchyard wall.

Some 16 miles or so south of Weybourne stands the stately BLICKLING HALL, built on the site of the old hall which was the home of Anne Boleyn; it is also the home of perhaps the most famous of Norfolk's phantom coaches. Traditionally, at midnight on the anniversary of her execution (May 9th 1536), the hapless ghost of poor Anne is driven, bloody head in hand, up to the main door of the hall in a coach pulled by four black horses, attended by headless footmen. At the hall she alights from the coach and enters, gliding round its corridors until the cold light of dawn

Sir Thomas Boleyn, Anne's father, also haunts this area although his nocturnal travels carry him over a much wider area. As a penance for his part in Anne's death, he is condemned to ride in a coach and four over twelve Norfolk bridges for a thousand years. Like his daughter he too is headless, carrying it under his arm with blue flames issuing from the mouth. Accompanying him are four headless coachmen and four equally headless footmen. He is compelled to drive at a headlong speed pursued by a horde of 'fiends' uttering hideous screams. His route takes him from Blickling Hall, over the bridges at AYLSHAM, BURGH, OXNEAD, BUXTON, COLTISHALL, HEYTON, WROXHAM and BAYS BRIDGE at BRAYDESTON near Brundall plus four others unspecified. Another version of this legend says that he is compelled to ride over no less than forty bridges.

Whether it marks the end of this journey, or represents a different legend altogether is uncertain, but a similar story is told in the CAISTER area.

'Beneath his arm his head he bore,
Its tangled hair all wet with gore,
Pursued he was by demons foul,
With piercing shriek and dismal howl...'

Sir Thomas's journey seems to be broken at BRAYDESTON, for according to another legend, he fights a duel here annually with Sir Thomas Paston in which the latter is killed. Both duellists arrive in ghostly coaches each pulled by four headless horses attended by four headless servants, all of whom have blue flames issuing from their necks; quite a sight for anyone 'fortunate' to witness it!

Away to the north east of Braydeston lies Heigham Bridge near BASTWICK. Another fascinating coach legend is to be found here, although, unlike the above stories, none of the characters in it seem to have any historical foundation. The story comes from 'Ghosts of the Broads' by Charles Sampson.

In 1740 a house stood at Bastwick called, appropriately enough, Bastwick Place, the home of Sir Godfrey Haslitt, a wealthy batchelor with a 'cordial dislike' for all women. Lady Montifiore Carew, who lived at Castle Lynn (wherever that might be) had a very beautiful daughter, Lady Evelyn, whom she was determined would marry Sir Godfrey and so get a finger on his money. To ensure that he fell in love with her daughter Lady Montifiore obtained a love potion from a witch at Belaugh, although in doing so she had to swear over her daughter's soul to the Devil.

The potion worked and Sir Godfrey and Lady Evelyn were married on May 21st, 1741 in the High Cathedral, so the story goes. The happy couple together with their guests returned to Bastwick Place to receive the Bishp's blessing. His arrival was delayed somewhat when one of the horses pulling his coach threw a shoe. However, just on the stroke of midnight the coach eventually arrived and the Bishop, followed by his entourage, entered the hall in which the guests were gathered. Suddenly he and his party turned inward, at the same time changing into hideous skeletons. The leading skeleton, still wearing a mitre and cope, seized the screaming bride and raced from the hall closely followed by the others; they leapt onto the waiting coach and galloped off into the night at break-neck speed towards Heigham Bridge.

The coach approached the bridge at a tremendous speed, swaying madly from side to side, as it reached the bridge it swayed so violently that it hit the stome parapet and was smashed into a thousand flaming fragments. The whole lot, together with the occupants, were flung into the river. There was a terrific roar and a fountain of flame and then silence. The Devil had claimed his prize!

Every year on the anniversary of the wedding this spectacle is traditionally reinacted. A glowing phospherescent coach pulled by four horses with flaming nostrils can be seen hurtling towards the bridge. Driving the coach is a hideous skeleton wearing a Bishop's mitre and cope, clutched in his skinny arms is the limp figure of a bride. Riding in and on the coach are other skeletons.

HEIGHAM BRIDGE.

So if you happen to be in the vicinity of Heigham Bridge at midnight one May 31st..... well, who knows?

A far more mundane apparition, that of a horse and cart, is said to haunt the ACLE NEW ROAD near Gt. Yarmouth. It has a nasty habit of crossing the road directly in the paths of oncoming vehicles. Some drivers, although they have not actually seen the apparition, have confessed to a sudden impulse to brake violently and for no apparent reason at a certain spot along the road.

Just down the road at GORLESTON, by the side of the Beccles Road is, or was, a water-filled hole called the 'LILY PIT'. At midnight a phantom pony and trap is said to thunder along the road and disappear beneath its murky waters. In 1892 a human skeleton was unearthed here, thought to be the remains of an Early British burial. However, the pit itself was dug in the early 17th century for brick clay.

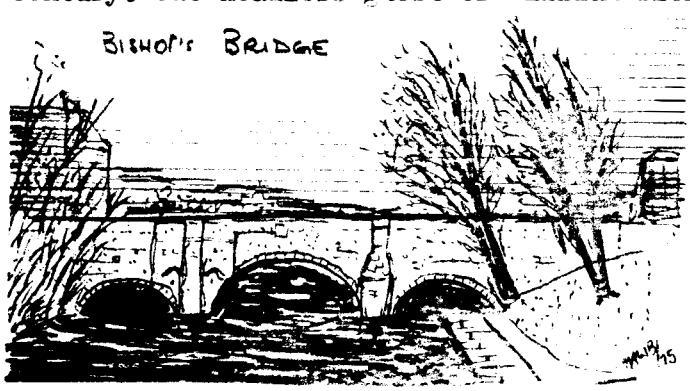
At GELDESTON near Beccles, a huge phantom coach drawn by four horses with fiery breath and sparking hooves is driven by a headless coachman on darksome nights. It is said to contain the restless spirits of the Bigods, the once all-powerful Norfolk family and builders of nearby Bungay Castle. The coach is said to start its journey at Bungay, it travels along the main road, past the church and 'Lover's Lane' down Bigod's Hill at Geldeston and then back again to Bungay by way of the low road. This apparition, it is said, can never be seen and heard at the same time.

Joan Forman, in her book 'Haunted East Anglia', records the story of a man who, one evening, saw a coach pulled by four horses careering towards him on the Bungay/Ditchingham Road near a place called the 'Lions Grave'. In the coach were two passengers. As the apparition approached him it swung away and disappeared into a layby which was once part of the old road. Perhaps the Bigods are still about after all...

Further west, at PULHAM MARKET, a ghostly coach and horses is said to frequent MILL LANE. The coachman is headless and sparks fly from his whip when he cracks it.

At LONG STRATTON another phantom coach and four has been reported at intervals down the years. The driver is a man named Judge Reeve, known locally as 'Old Reeve', who drives the coach around the parish at a furious pace. Judge Reeve Died in 1647 and his effigy, together with that of his wife, now reclines in LongStratton Church. Unfortunately the reason why the poor man should haunt the area has not been recorded.

Monks Grange, more commonly known as Hassets Manor House, stood near St.James's Hill at THORPE, Norwich. Until it was demolished in 1792 to make way for the Cavalry Barracks it had been the home of the Blennerhasset family from the middle of the 16th century. The headless ghost of William Blennerhasset traditionally rode from the house in a coach pulled by four headless horses. It would hurtle over Bishops Bridge and around the adjacent neighbourhood, sometimes flying over trees and houses. On some occasions the whole city would be illuminated by flashes of fire from the driver's whip.



One of the few phantom coaches to be a harbinger of doom is said to drive along the SPIXWORTH ROAD. Four black horses pull a driverless hearse which foretells certain death to the first person it passes.

A phantom coach story with a slightly different slant comes from the scattered parish of GREAT MELTON. According to legend, four bridesmaids left a wedding at Norwich and headed for home, their journey took them along the road by the river Yare. The coach in which they were travelling was last seen at Gt. Melton hurtling along at great speed on an unusually dark night. What happened here remains a mystery, but the party was never seen again. Some say that they were way-laid by highway men and murdered, the coach being pushed into a deep roadside pond. Others believe that the coachman, being very drunk, drove the coach into the pond. Anyway, whatever happened the story goes that a phantom coach and horses periodically hurtles along this road with a headless driver and four headless passengers.

A slightly different version of the legend was recorded by W. Gerish in 1846. he says that every night at midnight and every day at noon, a phantom coach rises silently from the pond, drives once round the field and then disappears again beneath the dark waters.

No such details are known of the apparition at WICKLEWOOD, except that a phantom coach is said to appear at a pit somewhere in the locality, it drives round the parish returning finally to the pit again.

Another of these ubiquitous apparitions is said to have been seen in the WOOD-RISING area many years ago. A Rumbling noise was heard first and then the apparition appeared, 'a coach with lamps and windows lit up as bright as day, all ablaze with light, but with no horses pulling it.' The apparition vanished at a turning to the village. Other witnesses have said that it was pulled by headless horses. Stories of this coach, or a very similar one, are to be found in the nearby parishes.

Late at night, around Christmas time, sometime last century, the tenant of LONG-HAM HALL heard the sound of coach wheels on the gravel drive of the hall. When he looked out of a window he saw the flare of approaching coach lamps. He called out, asking who was there, but received no reply; the drive was empty. Next morning no wheel marks could be found on the gravel.

A similar story comes from WEST BRADDENHAM HALL a few miles south of Longham. Many years ago Mr.W.M.R.Haggard, the owner of the hall, was holding a party to welcome home one of his sons. During the evening a carriage was heard coming up the drive. As usual it stopped at the inner gate and then slowly approached the door. Some of the guests rushed out to greet the expected arrival; but although everyone assembled had heard the coach there was nothing to be seen; the drive was empty!

One of the most famous and perhaps most frightening of Norfolk's gallery of ghostly coaches was encountered by George Mace, a poacher, at BRECCLES HALL in the early 1900's. George and his gang had gone out poaching late one night, and had arranged to meet behind the hall, its occupants having gone away. George arrived first and took his position by the front porch to keep an eye out for the others. When suddenly, on the stroke of midnight, the hall sprung into life. Lights came on everywhere and George could see finely attired lords and ladies in old-fashioned dress dancing to the sound of violins. As he turned to run from this fantastic scene, a coach and four with lamps blazing and footmen hanging on the back, swept up the drive and stopped by the door where George stood. The carriage door opened and out stepped the loveliest lady that he had ever seen. She transfixed poor George with a long, cold stare, he uttered a hideous scream and fell dead to the ground. At that the coach, lights, ladies and all vanished and the hall stood dark and foreboding once more.

George's mates, who had witnessed all this, bolted back to the village and refused to go anywhere near the hall until daylight. Next morning half the village arrived there and found George dead on the porch his face twisted in agony, his eyes staring straight ahead in a most terrified manner.

Finally in this brief circuit of phantom coach haunts, comes QUIDDENHAM HALL ESTATE. Here a ghostly waggon, some say a hearse, pulled by four horses and driven by a headless coachman has been reported near the old bridge, which stands by the church on the eastate.

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The Units, described in the article 'Suffolk Landscape Geometry' in Lantern 9, have been found to be local variants of antique measures konown to have been used in England up until the definition of the present Foot unit by King Edward I in 1305. The units are:

X = 295.3 metres = 1000 Roman feet.

The Roman foot, in its earliest form, was 29.73cm. Later, commonly, it was 29.57cm, and by the late 3rd century had declined to 29.42cm. 29.53cm therefore represents a variant of the Roman foot.

As well as the Roman Foot, the Greek foot of 31.7cm was used in English building. The unit Y relates to this:

Y = 465 metres = 1000 Greek cubits.

As X is 1000 Roman feet, 5X is equivalent to the Roman mile, so multiples of 5X are distances in whole Roman miles. Another common Roman measure was the Actus being 120 Roman feet. This measure makes 12X equivalent to 100 Actus, and the distance between the centre of Retreat Farm and Norwich Cathedral is 700 Actus.

Other measurements which may occur in landscape geometry are the Saxon foot (33.53cm); the Welsh foot (25.1cm)and the Norman foot 29.777cm).

Nigel Pennick.

Copies of Lantern 9 containing Nigel's original article are still available: Ed.

INTERESTED IN

B.S.I.G.

THEN CONTACT

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AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER

THE

castle acre 'diamond'

BY R.T. HILL

Having spent many an idle hour drawing circles and lines and taking part in an absorbing, although sometimes frustrating, point to point chase on the Ordnance Survey maps, I began to feel more and more uneasy about the whole thing. Whilst straight tracks were interesting from a local or historical point of view, what did they all add up to; were they so placed in accordance with a master plan; or did each region have its own 'ley-man' who laid out the ways according to his own methods?

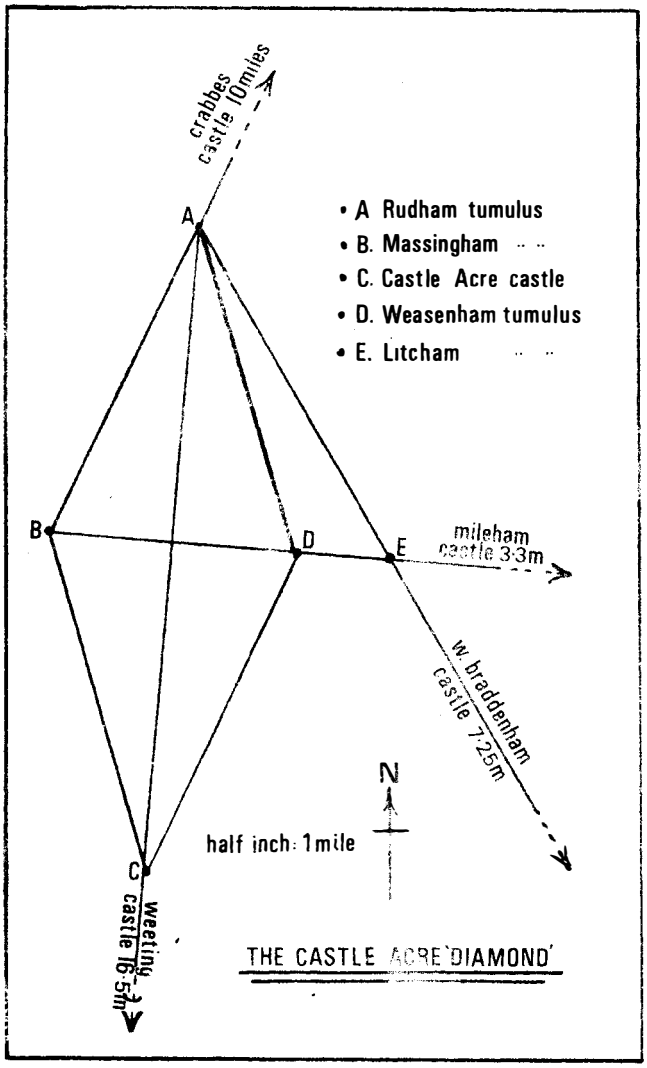
With this in mind I decided that instead of being satisfied with simple straight lines of connected points, one should seek overall patterns of alignments and then determine if there was a repetition of a basic pattern in other regions throughout the country.

Critics of "us queer folk who draw lines on maps" and indeed most ley-hunters at some time or the other, suggest that straight line alignments can be drawn equally as well between farm, windmills, post offices, 'pubs etc. This criticism would be much more difficult to maintain if it were possible to produce repeating geometric figures, tangibly similar to each other, in various parts of the country.

However, to get down to brass tacks. I have found some most interesting diamond shapes in East Anglia which appear to have been laid out with great accuracy, not

only with regard to the similarity of distances between the points forming the alignments, but also in the repetition of the angles involved.

To give an example, indeed one which gives a most satisfying pattern, take either O.S. Map No.132 (N.W.Norfolk) in the new 1:50,000 series, or sheet 125 (Fakenham) in the old 1 inch series. Draw a line from the tumulus at Massingham Common (806207) to the tumulusabove Rudham Common (834258); then down to the westerly of the tumuli at Weasenham Lyngs Plantation(846202); and then on to the remains of the castle at Castle Acre(8191152); and then back again to Massingham Common. Result? - one lovely diamond with two sides measuring 6160 yards, and two side measuring 6270 yards. The northerly and southerly angles being 42° whilst the easterly and westerly are 138°. (these measurements being as close as can be ascertained on this scale map). Don't go away though for there is more to come. Draw a line from the Massingham Common point, through Weasenham Lyngs point to the castle remains at Mileham(916194) and it passes through the tumulus at Litcham Heath(866201) on route.



The diagram shows the sort of picture which is emerging. Not wishing to bore you with more detailed instructions for developing the theme, I have put into the drawing some of the other alignments which show the sort of two-dimensional patterns we are looking for.

Summarising the alignment pattern, the following points seem significant:

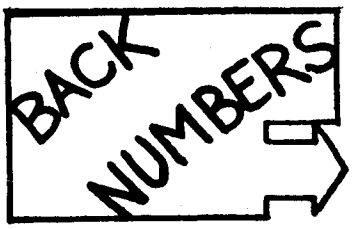
1. The pattern incorporates
   6 castle sites.
   6 tumuli.
   1 earthwork.
   Church at Tittleshall
   ('tot' derivation?)
2. There is great interplay of triangles and there also appears to be a tendency for the main figures to run roughly north/south and east/west.
3. The shape of the pattern seems to regular to be explained by chance. particularly as the 'Castle Acre Diamond' takes account of ALL the tumuli in the vicinity.

This geometrical series of alignments appears in other places in East Anglia and perhaps another article in Lantern at a later date would show some of these. and also an inter-relationship between them and the 'Castle Acre Diamond'.

Oh, by the way, if you stick a compass point in the centre of the line between the Massingham Common and Weasenham Lyngs points, and place the pencil end on the Litcham Heath Tumulus, the circle it draws goes through three churches, two farms and aligns on to a curved section of road below Great Massingham, (I make no claim to have discovered the first circular ley though.....!) Good diamond hunting.

THE NEWS is a non-profitmaking bi-monthly miscellany of Fortean news, notes and references; and is affiliated to the International Fortean Organisation (INFO) in continuing the work of **Charles Fort** (1874 – 1932). THE NEWS is edited by **Robert JM Rickard : Post Office Stores, Aldermaston, Berkshire, England.**

The latest issue, No.9, contains notes on Fireballs, Ghost lights, vanishing animals, fish & people and much more. Annual subscription in the UK is £2.10, single copies 35p from the above address.....



The following back numbers of Lantern are still available: No.4; articles include 'The Lowestoft witches' and 'The New Hainford UFO': No.5; articles include 'Old Shuck at Great Yarmouth' and 'A Ghost Named George': No.7; articlrs include 'Mysterious Stones in East Anglia' and 'The Good People': No.8; articles include 'The Haunting of Glasshouse Row' and 'Fairy Folk': No.9; articles include 'A Case of Psychic Photography?' and 'Suffolk Landscape Geometry'. Single copies of Nos 4, 5 and 7 are IOp each; Nos 8 & 9 I2p eaeh. Postage on single copies 6p, 2 or 3 copies 8p: 4 or 5 copies IOp. Available from the address on page one. + + + + + + + + + + +

U.F.O. REPORT

A very interesting sighting occured on February 24 this year near Sizewell Nuclear Power Station, Suffolk. At around 7pm Mr. Tom Mayer, a retired civil servant from Leiston, was walking his dog along the nearby cliffs. He describes what happened on that walk;

"It was a beautiful night with the moon rising over the sea, the sky was clear with the usual myriads of stars and constellations. It was cold too but ideal for walking.

My dog and I started a brisk walk along the dunes, a regular walk which we have done dozens of times in the past. A mile or so past the Power Station I stopped to light my pipe. In a north-east direction I noticed what appeared to be a shooting star descending, and the Object sudenly appeared. My dog was terrified, but I was transfixed- not with fear but wonder. It (the object) was pumpkin-shaped and the colours appeared luminous and beautiful (green and yellow). It may have been 20 yards away and perhaps 6 feet from the ground. There was a warm fan effect which I could feel upon my face - not unpleasant but unnatural. There was no sound whatsoever and it vanished with a shooting star speed. There remained a pungent acidy aroma."

To date we have been unable to discover any rational explanation for this object.

On March 8 last, a Mr. & Mrs Button were travelling from their home in Kessingland to visit friends at Leiston. At about 7pm, on the road near the ruined Abbey at Leiston, Mr. Button glimpsed very briefly a bright orange object which shot across the road causing him to swerve his car sharply. The object was only visible for about 5 seconds and consequently the witnesses were unable to give any more details. Could there be some connection between this object and the one seen by Mr. Mayer?

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A much older report has just come to light, it was found in the Lowestoft Journal, July I5, I955. The report reads:

"Oh, mummy, look up in the sky at the beautiful silver star," cried 4 year old Roy Murray at about 5pm on Thursday week. His mother, Mrs Ruth Murray, of Homelands, Darby Road, Beccles, looked up into the cloudless sky, shading her eyes against the brilliant sunshine, and saw what she believes may have been yet another 'flying saucer'.

She said she saw a beautiful flat circular object, glistening silver, moving soundlessly and at tremendous speed in a south-easterly direction over her home. "I was so surprised I very nearly dropped the cycle I was holding, and my little baby was in a seat at the back", she told a reporter. "It was the most beautiful thing I have ever seen. There was no sound coming from it, so it could not have been an aeroplane, nor was there any smoke. I watched it for a few seconds, then it went black, as though it had turned, and disappeared. I stood and searched the sky for a long time afterwards, but there was nothing to be seen. It had completely disappeared."

Beccles police said that they had heard no reports of strange aircraft in the area, other than a number concerning a new-type of turbo-jet plane seen over Beccles several times recently. That, they said, made a very loud and distinctive noise....."

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news round-up

On the night of May 30/31, 3 investigators from the Psychical Research Section of BSIG set up their equipment at the Hall Inn, Sea Palling, Norfolk, in an attempt to track down the grey lady reputed to haunt some of the rooms.

On three seperate occasions recently an apparition has been seen with the appearance of a column of smoke. Strange noises and the inexplicable smell of 'cigarette smoke' have also been experienced together with drops in temperature.

The Inn, parts of which are over 400 years old, was once a farmhouse and the ghostly woman is said to be the wraith of an old lady who lived there about ninety years ago. Quite why she haunts the building is not known.

Nothing of the apparition or the accompanying phenomena was seen by the investigators, although during the night a seance was held (not normally part of BSIGs investigating procedure) during which it was claimed that the spirit of the departed old lady was contacted. The seance was very interesting but in the opinion of the investigators, inconclusive, primarily because all the 'information' obtained was known by at least half the people there. Attempts to obtain information which would have needed verification later fell very short of expectations. None the less the exercise was very illuminating.

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Since the last issue of LANTERN was published, the Lowestoft Photographic Society has returned the negatives of the Psychic Photos mentioned in it. Unfortunatetly they could offer nor more comment than that expressed by BSIG in Lantern 9; namely that the photographs could be genuine, but could equally as well have been faked, although there was no evidence of this. So, until the same results can be obtained under controlled conditions the matter must be left open to debate + + + +

comment.....

Whilst reading the most interesting article by Mr. J. Self on Psychic Photography published in the 'Lantern' for Spring 1975 (No.9), I was interested in the reference to the use of infra-red for the original experiments.

It would seem that whenever photography is used in connection with psychic phenomena, infra-red film is almost invariably used, but I wonder if this is really necessary because surely infra-red film can only record images if they are illuminated by infra-red light or visible light? Generally the films which are available are not sufficiently sensitive to record the heat emitted by anything cooler than say a hot electric clothes iron. Further, we find that when ghosts appear, there is reputedly a DROP in temperature and this would appear as a darker area on any photograph which might be taken, in other words we should see a negative ghost!

There would seem to be some possibility of 'catching' a supernatural event, or visitor, by the use of the newer Thermographic types of equipment which show very small differences of temperatures as areas of different colour and displays them on a type of television screen. This makes it feasible to set up the camera in a room and then sit back comfortably elsewhere and watch events from a safe distance.

Perhaps some learned reader could say whether this could be combined with Holographic techniques and thus give a 3-dimensional record of any spookery?

R.T. Hill,
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Those who would like to follow up further the subject of psychic photographs as mentioned in Mr. Self's article in Lantern 9, will be interested in a recent book, "Ghosts: The Illustrated History" by Peter Haining (Sedgwick & Jackson, £3.75). It has lengthy chapters on such photographs, both real and faked, with copius Illustrations. Mr. Haining also gives accounts of how fraudulent mediums, fake phenomena and supernatural events are produced by admitted conjurers. There are in addition numerous photographs of haunted houses and other subjects of ghostly interest. The text is very adequate, but the pictures make this a valuable book, and I do not know of any which has anything like the same abundance.

W.J.C.